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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The A method ~~of claim 1~~ further comprising:  
reporting an ability of a processor to support said a processor mode that enables  
guest software to operate at a privilege level intended by the guest software,  
using one of a plurality of reserved feature bits that are returned in a processor  
register; and  
responsive to an attempt of the guest software to perform an operation restricted  
by said processor mode, exiting said processor mode to transfer control over  
the operation to a virtual machine monitor running outside said processor  
mode.

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8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of claim 8 wherein generating one of the plurality of interrupts and exceptions further includes comprising:~~

running guest software in a processor mode that enables the guest software to

operate at a privilege level intended by the guest software;

identifying ~~the~~ an attempt of the guest software to perform the an operation

restricted by said processor mode; and

determining that the attempt of the guest software would succeed if the guest

software was running outside said processor mode; and

exiting said processor mode to transfer control over the operation to a virtual

machine monitor running outside said processor mode.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method of claim 8 further comprising:~~

running guest software in a processor mode that enables the guest software to

operate at a privilege level intended by the guest software;

identifying an attempt of the guest software to modify an interrupt flag;

if the interrupt flag controls masking of interrupts, exiting said processor mode to

transfer control over the operation to a virtual machine monitor running

outside said processor mode; and

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modifying the interrupt flag if the interrupt flag does not control masking of interrupts.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) ~~The A method of claim 12 wherein preventing comprising:~~  
running guest software in a processor mode that enables the guest software to  
operate at a privilege level intended by the guest software;  
identifying an attempt of the guest software to modify an interrupt flag;  
and  
preventing the attempt of the guest software to modify the interrupt flag.  
including:

includes providing if a shadow interrupt flag is provided, allowing for  
modifications by the guest software to modify the shadow interrupt  
flag; and

if the shadow interrupt flag is not provided, exiting said processor mode to  
transfer control over the operation to a virtual machine monitor  
running outside said processor mode.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

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16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

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28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)